



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 December 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Journal News reports federal nuclear regulators confirmed Tuesday, December 20, that radioactive water is showing up in storm sewer lines and recently dug wells near Indian Point 2 nuclear plant as engineers try to determine the cause of a four-month leak there and its presence in the site's groundwater. (See item [22](#))
- The Associated Press reports two explosions caused minor exterior damage at a Cincinnati mosque complex about two hours after evening prayers on Tuesday, December 20, and federal agents have joined the investigation. (See item [39](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 21, Bloomberg* — **Energy company files for bankruptcy.** Calpine Corp., the biggest U.S. owner of natural gas fired power plants, filed for bankruptcy protection from creditors while it reorganizes, listing more than \$22.5 billion in debt after fuel costs soared to a record. Calpine listed \$26.6 billion in assets and said it received \$2 billion in debtor-in-possession financing to keep its plants supplying customers in states from Maine to California. Calpine's plants in 21 U.S. states and three Canadian provinces can generate 26,000 megawatts, according to its bankruptcy filings. It reported the eighth loss in 11 quarters in the

third quarter as natural gas and interest costs rose.

Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000103&sid=aKawbZv0RcAM&refer=us>

2. *December 21, Reuters* — **Shell Nigeria pipeline attacked.** Oil workers were on their way to extinguish a huge pipeline blaze in remote southern Nigeria on Wednesday, December 21, caused by a suspected dynamite attack that killed at least eight people. Royal Dutch Shell, which operates the pipeline in the Niger Delta that was attacked on Tuesday, December 20, by unknown gunmen, said output had been cut by 180,000 barrels per day (bpd), up from an initial report of 170,000 bpd. "The pipeline fire is continuing and Bonny flowstation, suspected to be feeding it, has been shut down. This brings the deferred volume to 180,000 bpd," a Shell spokesperson said. Shell, which has closed two oilfields to help curb the fire, had no official estimate of how long the outage would last. It represents a seven percent cut in output from Nigeria, the world's eighth biggest exporter of crude.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=1428919>

3. *December 19, Express-News (TX)* — **Gulf production still in recovery as huge repair job continues.** Hurricanes Katrina and Rita dealt such a severe blow to oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico that energy experts now say the flow of petroleum won't be fully restored until next summer. "The damage was more severe and in harder-to-reach places than many expected, such as the bottom of the ocean, that usually isn't affected that much," said Steve Parker, energy analyst at Kercheville & Co. in San Antonio, TX. "The storms tracked right through the heart of the gulf's oil and gas operations," added Parker. The two storms plowed through 3,050 of the 4,000 drilling platforms in the gulf, destroying 108 mostly old structures and significantly damaging 53 platforms. Modern equipment fared better; only one major platform was damaged significantly, the Minerals Management Service has reported. Even so, 28 percent of gulf oil production remains closed, amounting to almost 414,495 barrels a day, and more than 2.01 billion cubic feet of natural gas, 20 percent of the regular daily gas production, remains shut down, the Minerals Management Service said Monday, December 19.

Source: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/business/stories/MYSA121905.1E.GulfOil.4633c90.html>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

4. *December 20, Chemical & Engineering News* — **New reporting cycle.** Beginning in 2006, chemical manufacturers will have to report key production information to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) every five years, instead of every four years, as they have done for two decades. By switching the cycle of these reports from every four years to twice a decade, companies will save money "while still meeting the agency's basic information needs," EPA said. EPA collects the data on domestic production, importation, processing, and use of commercial chemicals under the Toxic Substances Control Act. This requirement applies to substances manufactured or imported in quantities of 25,000 pounds or more annually at any single site. Chemical manufacturers are due to send EPA their next reports in late 2006. Although the reports have always covered organic substances, the 2006 submissions will be the first to include data on inorganic compounds. In the upcoming reports, companies must report

the domestic production quantity for a chemical separately from the amount of the same substance they import. Previously, companies lumped together manufacturing and importation information for each chemical.

Source: <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/83/i52/8352regulation.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *December 21, Detroit News* — **Customers' lost bank information found.** A wayward computer tape that contained personal data for more than two million LaSalle Bank mortgage customers has been safely returned after turning up amid a mound of unmarked packages. After a month of fruitless searching, an employee of the DHL courier service found an unopened package in a stash of parcels in Wilmington, OH, that had lost their identifying air bills, bank officials said Tuesday, December 20. When workers opened the package, they found the computer tape and a return address and shipped it back to LaSalle Bank subsidiary ABM AMRO Mortgage Group Inc., where it arrived on Monday, December 19. This ended the month-long mystery of what happened to millions of names, addresses, Social Security numbers and other bits of information that were lost in transit from Chicago to Texas. ABN AMRO officials said there's no reason to suspect the package was opened or otherwise tampered with, but the company cannot guarantee the tape didn't get into the wrong hands during the four weeks it was missing.

Source: <http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051221/BIZ/512210382&template>

6. *December 21, Associated Press* — **Nigerian pleads guilty in identity theft case.** A Nigerian national pleaded guilty Tuesday, December 20, to conspiracy and grand theft involving identity theft that authorities say was accomplished by accessing personal information stolen from consumer data collector ChoicePoint Inc. Olatunji Oluwatosin, 42, of North Hollywood, CA, was indicted by a grand jury in August on 22 counts of identity theft, conspiracy, grand theft and credit card fraud. At the time of his indictment, prosecutors said the scheme cost at least \$4 million in damages and involved 16 victims and five banks or credit card companies.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP-ChoicePoint-Identity-Theft.html>

7. *December 20, Department of the Treasury* — **Treasury kicks off working group to strengthen defenses against terrorist financing.** The Department of the Treasury hosted the inaugural meeting of a new international private sector outreach working group that unites public and private sector entities — both foreign and domestic — in an effort to strengthen defenses against terrorist financing and money laundering in the Middle East and North Africa. "By engaging directly with the international private sector, we can help facilitate the enhanced development and implementation of effective anti-money laundering (AML) and

counter-terrorist financing (CFT) measures, particularly in regions of strategic importance and jurisdictions that may lack fully functional AML/CFT regimes," said Patrick O'Brien, the Treasury's Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes. The Middle East/North Africa Financial Sector Working Group, which held its initial meeting on Friday, December 16, will focus on raising awareness and strengthening implementation of AML and CFT practices and programs within the regions' financial industries, particularly within the banking sectors.

Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/js3057.htm>

8. *December 20, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-85: Insurance Sector Preparedness: Insurers Appear Prepared to Recover Critical Operations Following Potential Terrorist Attacks, but Some Issues Warrant Further Review (Report).** The insurance sector is a key part of the U.S. financial sector, particularly following a terrorist attack or other disaster where there has been loss of life and damage to property. To determine the insurance sector's preparedness to protect and recover critical insurance operations, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to (1) describe the potential effects of disruptions to the operations of insurers, state insurance regulators, and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC); (2) identify actions taken by those organizations to protect and restore their operations; and (3) assess the extent to which regulations require reviews of insurer efforts in these areas. GAO recommends that state regulators, working through NAIC and appropriate state officials, ensure that state insurance regulators implement appropriate capabilities for recovering critical functions following a disruption. GAO also recommends that NAIC act on its decision to have more frequent independent testing of its information security environment. Finally, GAO recommends that state regulators, as they review the adequacy of their examination processes, consider whether changes are needed to examination content and structure related to business continuity, recovery time objectives, and outsourcing.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d0685high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0685.pdf>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

9. *December 21, KIRO (WA)* — **Seattle ferry nearly collides with cargo ship.** The Coast Guard is investigating a close call between a state ferry and a cargo ship Tuesday evening, December 20, in Puget Sound, WA. Tom Dike, the watch supervisor at the coast guard, says the Coast Guard told the ferry Wenatchee and the Knud-Maersk about each other when they saw the two heading toward each other. The Wenatchee said it would let the one-thousand foot container ship pass, however, the Wenatchee then had to back down to avoid a possible collision. The Coast Guard says the two huge vessels came within about a quarter mile of each other.

Source: http://www.kirotv.com/news/5596063/detail.html?rss=sea&psp=n_ews

10. *December 21, Reuters* — **Crashed Miami seaplane's wing said cracked.** A twin-engine seaplane that crashed just off Miami Beach, killing at least 19, had a "fatigue crack" that might have caused it to lose its right wing, federal investigators said on Wednesday, December 21. Mark Rosenker, acting chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), said the

NTSB was working with the Federal Aviation Administration to determine if the problem was confined to the ill-fated aircraft or was potentially affecting the operator's entire fleet of seaplanes. Federal investigators found evidence of the fatigue crack in a wing spar that connected the wing to the fuselage after recovering the severed wing from the sea. Rosenker said it would have required "a very serious type of inspection" to have discovered the crack. The rest of the aircraft was due to be raised out of the water later on Wednesday, December 21. The Port of Miami was briefly reopened overnight to allow cruise ships to leave and freighters to come and go, but it was closed again on Wednesday as efforts resumed to remove the aircraft from Miami's main shipping channel.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/newsarticle.aspx?type=domesticNews&storyid=2005-12-21T154922Z_01_SPI154471_RTRUKOC_0_US-CRASH-SEAPLANE.xml

11. *December 21, New York Times* — **Judge puts off strike rulings until Thursday.** Justice Theodore T. Jones of the New York State Supreme Court ordered Roger Toussaint, the leader of the transit workers union, and two other union officials to appear in his courtroom at 11 a.m. EST Thursday, December 22, saying their presence is required because of the possibility that he will sentence one or more of the three to jail. He also put off until Thursday his ruling on a request by New York City for a temporary restraining order against the transit workers as part of a lawsuit the city filed against the union. The state attorney had been expected to seek fines of \$1,000 a day against the union officials under the Taylor Law, which bars strikes by public employees. Noting that transit workers made more money than teachers, firefighters, and police officers, New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said the illegal strike was "designed to take place at a time of the year where it will hurt the most people." As the transit strike, which began at 3 a.m. EST Tuesday, stretched into its second day, traffic was again snarled along many of the city's major roadways, including the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, as many commuters tried to get into Manhattan before a 5 a.m. ban on cars with fewer than four people took effect.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/21/nyregion/nyregionspecial3/21cnd-strike.html?hp&ex=1135227600&en=6ea13bcca6d0ebc3&ei=5094&partner=homepage>

12. *December 20, Federal Aviation Administration* — **New Federal Aviation Administration navigation procedure at Reagan National airport helps travelers, airlines, airport neighbors.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Tuesday, December 20, announced that a new navigation procedure at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport will increase efficiency, improve safety, and reduce the effect of aircraft noise and emissions on homes and businesses under the flight path. Called "Required Navigation Performance" (RNP), the procedure takes advantage of a plane's onboard navigation capability to fly a more precise flight path into the airport. The Reagan National RNP approach to Runway 19, which follows the Potomac River, allows planes to land with considerably lower cloud ceilings and visibility than currently required, increasing airport access during marginal weather. "We're tapping the high-performance computing capability of today's aircraft to move more planes more safely and efficiently," said FAA Administrator Marion C. Blakey. Besides the new procedure at Reagan National, the FAA has authorized RNP procedures at Juneau, San Francisco, Portland, OR; Palm Springs, CA; and Hailey (Sun Valley), ID. According to the FAA, performance-based navigation will establish precise approach, arrival, and departure procedures. It also will improve situational awareness for pilots and air traffic controllers.

Source: <http://www.faa.gov/apa/pr/pr.cfm?id=1986>

- 13. *December 20, Associated Press* — Jetliner makes emergency landing at Logan International airport; lands safely.** A jetliner with a landing-gear problem touched down safely at Logan International late Tuesday, December 20 after circling the airport for about two hours. Sparks could be seen coming from an area near the right landing gear as the aircraft landed just before 10 p.m. EST, but the plane rolled to a stop without incident. Midwest Airlines Flight 210 had 86 passengers and four crewmembers on board. Air traffic controllers reported seeing sparks at the rear of the plane after it took off at about 8:15 p.m. EST, bound for Milwaukee, WI, said Laura Brown, a spokesperson for the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. Carol Skornicka, a spokesperson for Milwaukee-based Midwest, said the pilot noticed a problem with the right landing gear shortly after takeoff. She said the plane spent a couple of hours circling to burn off excess fuel. Midwest and U.S. authorities are expected to investigate.

Source: <http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/World/2005/12/20/1361919-ap.html>

- 14. *December 20, KCRA-3 (CA)* — Plane makes emergency landing at California airport.** A Horizon airlines flight made an emergency landing at Sacramento International Airport in California, Tuesday afternoon, December 20. The plane was headed to Arcata, CA, from Southern California when an engine went out, according to authorities, causing the cockpit to fill up with smoke. All 62 passengers were uninjured.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/kcra/20051220/lo_kcra/3135449

- 15. *December 20, Federal Aviation Administration* — FAA releases airspace redesign alternatives for New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia Metropolitan Area.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on Tuesday, December 20, called for comments on four potential plans to improve safety, reduce delays, and handle growing air traffic in most of the nation's northeastern airspace. The call comes as the FAA released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the New York/New Jersey/Philadelphia Metropolitan Area Airspace Redesign Project. The statement describes the different alternatives the FAA is considering to change the structure of the 31,000-square-mile airspace within a five-state area to better match increases in air traffic levels, new technologies, and aircraft types. The airspace redesign covers a population of 29 million residents. Twenty-one airports are included within the project, with a particular focus placed on air traffic operations at five major airports: Newark Liberty International Airport and Teterboro Airport in New Jersey; John F. Kennedy International Airport and LaGuardia Airport in New York; and Philadelphia International Airport in Pennsylvania. Airports without significant instrument flight rule operations were not included. The agency will select a preferred alternative after the public comment ends on Thursday, June 1, 2006.

Redesign: <http://www.faa.gov/nynjphl airspace redesign>

Source: http://www.faa.gov/news/press_releases/eastern/2005/122005.cfm

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

Agriculture Sector

16. *December 21, Associated Press* — **Iowa farmers sign up for livestock identification system.** More than 300 Iowa farms have registered as part of a countrywide livestock identification system, state and federal officials said Tuesday, December 20. Iowa Agriculture Secretary Patty Judge said premise identification through the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) will help track sick or diseased animals to their source. Susan Holl, a U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service spokesperson, said 17,000 farmers across the country have registered with the NAIS. There is no specified date when the program might become mandatory, but some industry experts expect that to happen by 2009.
NAIS: <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/naais/index.shtml>
Source: <http://www.press-citizen.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051221/NEWS01/512210316/1079>
17. *December 21, San Mateo County Times (CA)* — **Agency aims to halt invasive weed.** Last January, California's Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District began to notice a new species of grass creeping into fields and along creeks in the Thornewood Open Space Preserve in Woodside. They found tufts of it in neighbors' backyards, and even under the densest redwood trees. No agency in California had ever seen the invasive plant, which was spreading in places where grass wouldn't ordinarily be found. Eventually, genetic testing revealed it as slender false brome, a non-native weed present in Oregon since 1939 but not recognized as a problem until the last decade. Cindy Roessler, district resource management specialist, said slender false brome is a particularly insidious weed that disrupts native plant ecology by preventing other species from growing. The district began removing the plants right away, but there is still more work. Last week, the district's board of directors approved a plan to spend \$1.2 million eradicating the brome on the Thornewood Preserve and adjacent private properties over the next decade. Slender false brome has invaded at least 6,000 acres in western Oregon, according to Debbie Johnson, a forester with Oregon State College. "We consider it the super-weed here. It can out-compete pretty much anything," said Johnson.
Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/localnews/ci_3329755
18. *December 20, Itarr-Tass (Russia)* — **Foot-and-mouth cases registered in Russia.** Three cases of foot-and-mouth disease have been found at a livestock farm in the Vyazemsky district, the Khabarovsk region. Blood serum from three cows has been sent to the animals protection center in Vladimir. If the tests are positive, cows will have to be culled. Two hundred head of cattle was culled at farms and private households of the Vyazemsky and Bukinsky regions last autumn. Last week, four cows were slaughtered in a private household in the village of Kupriyanovo, the Amur region.
Source: <http://www.tass.ru/eng/level2.html?NewsID=2739739&PageNum=0>
19. *December 19, Pennsylvania Game Commission* — **Pennsylvania Game Commission bans importation of certain carcass parts.** Using newly-granted emergency powers, Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Director Vern Ross Monday, December 19, issued an order banning the importation of specific carcass parts from states and Canadian provinces where chronic wasting disease (CWD) had been identified in cervid populations. "With chronic

wasting disease (CWD) present in free-ranging and captive wildlife populations in 14 states and two Canadian provinces, we must act responsibly and clearly to protect our wild and captive populations of deer and elk, as well as other cervid family members," Ross said. "This ban applies to carcass parts from deer, elk or other cervids susceptible to CWD taken from the wild or from captive facilities in those states where CWD has been found in wild herds. Specific carcass parts prohibited from being imported into Pennsylvania by hunters are: head (including brain, tonsils, eyes, and retropharyngeal lymph nodes); spinal cord/backbone; spleen; skull plate with attached antlers, if visible brain or spinal cord material is present; cape, if visible brain or spinal cord material is present; upper canine teeth, if root structure or other soft material is present; any object or article containing visible brain or spinal cord material; and brain-tanned hides.

CWD information: <http://www.cwd-info.org>

Source: <http://www.pgc.state.pa.us/pgc/cwp/view.asp?Q=166946&A=11>

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Food Sector

20. *December 21, USAgNet* — Attack on U.S. food supply would be costly. A terror attack against the U.S. food supply could result in significantly more casualties than caused by 9/11 and cost the economy hundreds of billions of dollars. Still, research on consumer diet choices and existing food supply systems indicates that terrorists would find it difficult to cripple the nation long-term. These and other observations were shared recently during the National Food Protection and Defense Research Conference. The conference was hosted by the Institute of Food Technologists and led by the National Center for Food Protection and Defense, a Center of Excellence with the Department of Homeland Security. Research to identify areas of the food supply that are least flexible to rebound from attack is important, as are methods to minimize the vulnerability, the experts maintain. But food economists stated that the diverse diets of American children, adults, and seniors make it difficult to choose a single food to attack that would sufficiently reach every consumer. Likewise, the diversity of suppliers producing the same products ensures the likelihood that safe food could still reach consumers in the event of attack. Economists noted that the assault on the national economy could approach \$200 billion or more lost over a five-year period.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=1268&yr=2005>

21. *December 20, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — Food manufacturers to be required to list food allergens. Effective January 1, 2006, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is requiring food labels to clearly state if food products contain any ingredients that contain protein derived from the eight major allergenic foods. As a result of the Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act of 2004 (FALCPA), manufacturers are required to identify in the presence of ingredients that contain protein derived from milk, eggs, fish, crustacean shellfish, tree nuts, peanuts, wheat, or soybeans in the list of ingredients or to say "contains" followed by name of the source of the food allergen after or adjacent to the list of ingredients. For example, if a product contains the milk-derived protein, casein, the product's label will have to use the term "milk" in addition to the term "casein" so that those with milk allergies can clearly understand the presence of the allergen they need to avoid. It is estimated that two percent of adults and about five percent of infants and young children in the U.S. suffer from food

allergies. Approximately 30,000 consumers require emergency room treatment and 150 Americans die each year because of allergic reactions to food.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2005/NEW01281.html>

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Water Sector

22. *December 21, Journal News (NY)* — Radioactive water found in new Indian Point test wells. Federal nuclear regulators confirmed Tuesday, December 20, that radioactive water is showing up in storm sewer lines and recently dug wells near Indian Point 2 as engineers try to determine the cause of a four-month leak there and its presence in the site's groundwater. A spokesperson for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said elevated tritium levels were found in manholes and testing wells in the area of Indian Point 2, where as much as two liters a day of radioactive water has leaked since the end of August. Tritium is a radioactive isotope of the element hydrogen. NRC spokesperson Neil Sheehan said the tritium levels found in the new wells and the sewer manholes do not constitute a public-health concern because they are not in drinking water sources, but they exceed acceptable Environmental Protection Agency standards. Sheehan also said a well dug near the Hudson River to test for tritium showed levels of isotope below the EPA's acceptable levels of 20,000 picocuries/liter of water and that the amount of tritium released by the company into the Hudson River still falls within acceptable discharge levels.

Source: <http://www.thejournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051221/NEWS02/512210335/1025/NEWS09>

23. *December 21, Reuters* — New toxic slick cuts river water supplies in China. Toxic waste from a zinc smelter, the second environmental disaster to hit China in weeks, halted water supplies from a southern river for eight hours and threatens cities downstream, state media said on Wednesday, December 21. China is still reeling from an explosion at a chemical plant in the northeast last month which poisoned drinking water for millions. Cadmium levels have been 10 times normal in the Shaoguan city section of the North River running across the southern province of Guangdong, the government-run Guangzhou Daily said. A hotel receptionist in Shaoguan city, with a population of half a million, said water was turned off for eight hours on Tuesday, December 20. People who live along the river had been told not to drink the water, the Guangzhou Daily said. Guangdong Television said on Tuesday, December 20, that local environmental officials had ordered the smelter, China's third largest, to stop discharging water from Sunday, December 18. The downstream city of Yingde, with a population of 100,000, had been rushing in drinking water by road, the newspaper said. Cadmium, a metallic element widely used in batteries, can cause liver and kidney damage and lead to bone diseases.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/PEK349376.htm>

24. *December 21, Associated Press* — Russian city's water cut; spill approaches. Authorities in the city of Khabarovsk in Russia's Far East cut off water to its 10,000 people Wednesday, December 21, as a toxic slick from a chemical plant explosion in China floated downriver. By evening, pipes began to pump water once again to the homes of people in three southern districts of the city, with full supplies expected to resume by Thursday, December 22. Regional officials said that tests conducted in the Amur River, which flows past the city and provides it

with all its water supplies, so far had not detected chemicals above permissible levels. The pollutant slick, measuring 110 miles long, was expected to take up to four days or more to pass through Khabarovsk. Sergei Gorchkov, an official with the regional branch of the Emergency Situations Ministry, said the decision to restore water was taken after Chinese workers laboring around the clock finally managed to complete a dam across a waterway in a bid to prevent the toxins from reaching three water treatment facilities that service the south of the city. The November 13 chemical plant explosion dumped 100 tons of toxins into northeastern China's Songhua River, disrupting water supplies to millions of Chinese.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=1428281>

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Public Health Sector

25. *December 21, Associated Press* — Schools closed after at least 70 fall ill in Chechnya.

Authorities closed schools in part of Russia's Chechnya region Wednesday, December 21, after a mysterious poisoning sickened at least 70 people, most of them schoolchildren, officials said. Schools in the area will be closed until further notice, said Sergei Kozhemyaka of the southern branch of the Emergency Situations Ministry. Medical workers from Moscow have been taking blood samples trying to establish the cause of the illness. Among the theories is poisoning from a type of nerve gas. Dozens of school-age children from four towns in Chechnya's northeastern Shelkovsky region have been hospitalized, most within the past few days. The afflicted, who have also included teachers and school workers, have reported breathing trouble and headaches. Deputy Chechen Health Minister Zaur Muslyuev said 53 of those sickened were children.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/world/20051221-0729-russia-chechnya-illness.html>

26. *December 20, Agence France-Presse* — Nineteenth confirmed outbreak of bird flu in Romania.

A new outbreak of bird flu was confirmed in Romania in poultry in the southeastern town of Chichinetu, an official of the veterinary health authority said. "The laboratory in Bucharest Tuesday, December 20, confirmed the presence of the H5 virus in poultry in Chichinetu," the official, Gabriel Predoi, said. Poultry from nearby farms was slaughtered and decontamination measures were put in place at the entrance to the village. Precautionary measures have also been taken in the capital Bucharest. The risk of the disease spreading is still high, health authority official Teodora Ciolompea said. The site was the 19th in Romania where bird flu was detected, with dozens of fowl contaminated. Most of the cases in Romania have been in the Danube river delta to the east, located on a major migration path of wild birds.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051220/hl_afp/healthfluromania_051220181816: ylt=AnxyJRTvmlnXyPJmCRHRMNuJOrgF: ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU

27. *December 20, Rhode Island Government* — State releases response plan for pandemic flu.

Governor Donald L. Carcieri Tuesday, December 20, received the report on the State of Rhode Island's efforts to plan for, and respond to the possibility of an outbreak of pandemic flu. Last month, the Governor charged David Gifford, the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Health, and Robert J. Warren, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, to lead the statewide Pandemic Flu Working Group to update Rhode Island's

comprehensive plan to address a potential pandemic flu outbreak. According to the report, a severe outbreak of pandemic flu could strike up to 300,000 Rhode Islanders over a two month period, causing 150,000 individual doctor's visits, over 34,000 hospitalizations, and more than 6,600 deaths under a worst case scenario. The report noted that widespread illness could severely impact every activity in all sectors of society during a pandemic. The Pandemic Flu Working Group developed four primary goals for responding to and combating a pandemic in Rhode Island. These goals are: educate, inform, and empower the public before and during an influenza pandemic; slow and prevent the transmission of disease; provide needed medical care, and; continue operations of essential services in government and the private sector.

Source: <http://www.ri.gov/press/view.php?id=1045>

28. *December 19, Associated Press* — **House approves drug maker liability safeguards.** Drug manufacturers are a step closer toward winning the liability protections they say they need before investing in medicines to combat a bird flu pandemic. Consumers seeking damages on claims they were harmed by a vaccine would have to prove willful misconduct on the part of the drug manufacturers. That is a higher standard than negligence, used in many product liability cases. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-TN., led the fight for the additional protections. Amy Call, a Frist spokesperson, said drug companies don't view flu vaccine as profitable and won't get in the business if the potential liabilities outweigh the potential benefits. The Senate will take up the bill Wednesday, December 21, or Thursday, December 22. Call said the legislation puts in place a compensation system modeled after what Congress approved for those who experience harmful side effects from the smallpox vaccine. Under the program, pandemic flu vaccine recipients or their families could apply for lost income, medical expenses, and death benefits.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2005/12/19/national/w143733S40.DTL&type=health>

29. *December 19, Infectious Diseases Society of America* — **Polio vaccination strategies assessed as eradication nears.** In two studies, scientists are working to ensure that once polio is gone, it stays gone. Oral polio vaccine (OPV) contains weakened live virus strains. There is some concern over the use of OPV because vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV) can occasionally cause another form of polio. Researchers examined the duration of shedding of OPV by individuals with HIV infection. Out of a total of 419 adults with HIV infection, no poliovirus was isolated from any of the stool specimens tested. It is likely that fewer than one percent of adults with HIV infection experience prolonged virus shedding. The alternative to OPV is an inactivated polio vaccine (IPV). The immune response generated in the digestive tract by IPV was believed to be less potent than OPV. Therefore those immunized with IPV could still shed virus. Researchers used shedding of virus after treatment with a dose of OPV to measure the immune response. Seventy-five percent of children receiving two doses of IPV, followed by one dose of OPV, shed OPV virus a week later, compared to 92 percent of those receiving just one dose of OPV. After three weeks, 81 percent of the children receiving one OPV dose were still shedding virus, while only 37 percent of those immunized with IPV first were.

Global polio eradication initiative: <http://www.polioeradication.org/>

Source: http://www.idsociety.org/Template.cfm?Section=News_from_the_Journals&CONTENTID=15144&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm

Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

30. *December 21, Christian Science Monitor* — **A new place to go after a disaster.** West Virginia has approved a landmark plan to buy five plots of land and set it aside to house several hundred people in an emergency. The mobile home communities are intended mainly for West Virginia residents to escape the mountain floods that have resulted in six federal disaster declarations in the last five years. The land, however, can also be used for a national emergency such as hurricane Katrina. West Virginia's novel concept comes at a time when America is grappling with how to prepare for the next national population migration — whether it's the coming of a hurricane, an earthquake or a terrorist attack. Local, state, and federal emergency management officials are mulling over how to improve the Federal Emergency Management Agency's strategy of using trailer parks and housing vouchers to help disaster survivors. Having empty and available housing in a more remote location may be an expedient solution, some say. Critics would rather see a policy built around expanding and improving the dispersion of Section 8 housing vouchers for low-income households. They would then be able to afford apartments in cities and communities across the country. The downside, they say, is that a massive relocation may guarantee that most of those displaced will not return.

Source: <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/1221/p03s03-ussc.html>

31. *December 21, Rutland Herald (VT)* — **Vermont school to hold evacuation drill.** Mill River Union High School in North Clarendon, VT, has scheduled an evacuation drill Thursday, December 22, to test students and staff response to an emergency such as a bomb threat, chemical spill, gas leak or anything else that would necessitate evacuating the building. Students and staff will first evacuate to a staging area and from there they will be moved to one of two local schools from where they would be sent home in the event of a real emergency. The school will hold an assembly with students and staff after the evacuation drill to critique the exercise.

Source: <http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/2005/1221/NEWS/512210348/1002/NEWS01>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

32. *December 20, Security Focus* — **Symantec antivirus library RAR decompression heap overflow vulnerabilities.** The Symantec antivirus library is prone to multiple heap-based buffer overflow vulnerabilities. This vulnerability could be exploited to compromise computers running applications that utilize the affected library. The issue exists in the RAR archive decompression routines. The issue may affect all platforms running applications that include the library, including Microsoft Windows and Mac OS X releases of the applications. Symantec is

currently investigating this issue. A conclusive list of affected products is not available at this time.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/15971/info>

33. *December 20, FrSIRT* — **Eudora Qualcomm WorldMail remote buffer overflow vulnerability.** A vulnerability has been identified in Eudora Qualcomm WorldMail, which could be exploited by remote attackers to execute arbitrary commands. This flaw is due to a buffer overflow error when processing overly long IMAP commands (e.g. AUTHENTICATE or LIST) ending with the "}" character, which could be exploited by remote unauthenticated attackers to compromise a vulnerable system and execute arbitrary commands with SYSTEM privileges. Eudora Qualcomm WorldMail version 3.0 and prior are affected. The FrSIRT is not aware of any official supplied patch for this issue.

Source: <http://www.frsirt.com/english/advisories/2005/3005>

34. *December 20, Security Focus* — **McAfee VirusScan Security Center activeX control arbitrary file overwrite vulnerability.** McAfee VirusScan Security Center is prone to an arbitrary file overwrite vulnerability. Attackers are able to create and modify arbitrary files. Successful exploitation can lead to various attacks including potential arbitrary code execution and remote unauthorized access. McAfee has released updates to address this issue. These fixes can be installed automatically or manually through the products' 'Updates' feature.

McAfee Website: <http://www.mcafee.com/us/>

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/15986/info>

35. *December 20, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-236: Telecommunications: Strong Support for Extending FCC's Auction Authority Exists, but Little Agreement on Other Options to Improve Efficient Use of Spectrum (Report).** The radio-frequency spectrum is a natural resource used to provide an array of wireless communications services, such as television broadcasting, which are critical to the U.S. economy and national security. In 1993, the Congress gave the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) authority to use competitive bidding, or auctions, to assign spectrum licenses to commercial users. The Commercial Spectrum Enhancement Act required the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to examine FCC's commercial spectrum licensing process. Specifically, GAO examined the (1) characteristics of the current spectrum allocation process for commercial uses; (2) impact of the assignment process—specifically the adoption of auctions to assign spectrum licenses—on end-user prices, infrastructure deployment, competition, and entry and participation of small businesses; and (3) options for improving spectrum management. In 2003, GAO recommended that an independent commission examine spectrum management. In this report, GAO recommends that the Congress consider extending FCC's auction authority beyond the current expiration date of September 30, 2007. FCC provided technical comments on this report and OMB generally agreed with the report.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06236high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06236.pdf>

36. *December 19, Security Focus* — **Cisco EIGRP protocol unauthenticated goodbye packet remote denial of service vulnerability.** The Cisco EIGRP protocol is susceptible to a remote denial of service vulnerability. This issue is possible when MD5 neighbor authentication is not in use. This issue allows attackers to cause routing relationships to be torn down, forcing them

to be reestablished. The routing link will be unavailable during the time that the link is torn down, until it is reestablished. By repeating the attack, a sustained denial of network service is possible. This issue is being tracked by Cisco Bug ID CSCsc13698.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/15978/info>

37. *December 19, Security Focus* — **Cisco EIGRP protocol HELLO packet replay vulnerability.** The Cisco EIGRP protocol is susceptible to a vulnerability that allows HELLO packet replay attacks. This issue allows attackers to gain access to potentially sensitive network information in EIGRP UPDATE reply packets, or to cause a denial of service condition by flooding routers with HELLO packets. By utilizing replayed HELLO packets with MD5 enabled, attackers may cause a more severe denial of service condition. This issue is being tracked by Cisco Bug ID CSCsc13724.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/15970/info>

38. *December 17, Security Focus* — **Microsoft Internet Information Server 5.1 DLL Request Denial of Service Vulnerability.** It has been reported that a remotely exploitable denial of service vulnerability exists in Microsoft Internet Information Server 5.1. According to the author, versions 5.0 and 6.0 are not affected. Currently Security Focus is not aware of any vendor-supplied patches for this issue.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/15921/info>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT is aware of malicious software exploiting a vulnerability in the Microsoft Distributed Transaction Coordinator (MSDTC). Successful exploitation could allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary code on the system. US-CERT is also aware of increased scanning activity on port 1025/tcp, a port commonly used by this service. For more information about this vulnerability can be found in the following US-CERT Vulnerability Note:

VU#180868 Microsoft Distributed Transaction Coordinator vulnerable to buffer overflow via specially crafted network message please see vulnerability note:

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/180868>

Microsoft has released an update to address this vulnerability in Microsoft Security Bulletin MS05-051 please see:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/Bulletin/MS05-051.mspx>

US-CERT encourages administrators to apply the appropriate updates as soon as

possible.

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	23987 (---), 1026 (win-rpc), 445 (microsoft-ds), 27015 (halflife), 4142 (oidocsvc), 25 (smtp), 6881 (bittorrent), 2234 (directplay), 135 (epmap), 80 (www)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

39. *December 21, Associated Press* — Two explosions reported at Ohio mosque. Two explosions caused minor exterior damage at a mosque complex about two hours after evening prayers, and federal agents joined the investigation. No injuries were reported and police hadn't found any witnesses to the Tuesday night, December 20, explosions at the Islamic Association of Cincinnati mosque, police Capt. Gene Hamann said. The FBI and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were involved in the case, joining Cincinnati and State Highway Patrol state investigators, FBI Special agent Mike Brooks said. One explosion damaged an overhead glass panel in a front entryway at the mosque, and the other damaged a door on a porch at an adjacent house. There was no immediate comment Wednesday from the Islamic Association of Cincinnati. About 300 to 500 people worship at the mosque on a typical Friday, said Karen Dabdoub, director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Cincinnati. "This is very disturbing," she said. "And not only for this mosque and our community, but for the Islamic community in and around greater Cincinnati."

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/LegalCenter/wireStory?id=1428576>

40. *December 21, Cheboygan Tribune (MI)* — Another school is evacuated. Another area school was evacuated this month because of a bomb threat by a student. Emmet County Sheriff Pete Wallin said that the sheriff's department responded to the bomb threat at 9:40 a.m. Monday, December 19, at Pellston High School, in Pellston, MI. "The threat was found in a bathroom stall and was immediately reported to the faculty," said Wallin. He said that the building was evacuated per protocol with no major incidents. The incident is still under investigation and a Pellston student was identified as a suspect about one hour after the initial call, said Wallin. He also said that he would like to remind citizens that this type of crime is taken very seriously and will not be tolerated in any school systems. A similar incident at the Cheboygan Middle School resulted in various felony charges against a 13-year-old Cheboygan boy earlier this month.

Source: <http://www.cheboygannews.com/articles/2005/12/21/news/news2.txt>

41. *December 21, Parkersburg News & Sentinel (WV)* — West Virginia deputies investigating country club bomb. Wood County, WV, deputies are investigating a bomb threat called in Tuesday, December 20, to the Parkersburg Country Club. Around 6:25 p.m. EST Tuesday, country club employees notified the Wood County Central Telecommunications Center of the threat, said Detective Sgt. Shawn Graham, Wood County Sheriff's Department. Someone called

the country club and said there was a bomb in the building. Deputies responded along with Vienna police and the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. The building was evacuated and searched but no bomb was found. Graham said the bomb call was traced to a pay phone in south Parkersburg. Fingerprints taken from the phone booth might help identify the caller, he said.

Source: http://www.newsandsentinel.com/news/story/1221202005_new04_b_ombthreat122105.asp

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General Sector

42. *December 20, Associated Press* — Bombing attempt suspect arrested at London's Gatwick airport. British anti-terrorist police Tuesday, December 20, arrested a suspect in the attempted bombings of London's transit system on July 21, officials said. The man was arrested at Gatwick Airport as he got off a flight from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, London's Metropolitan Police said. The 23-year-old man was suspected of the commission, preparation, or instigation of acts of terrorism. Scotland Yard police headquarters said he had been out of Britain since June. The alleged role played by the man was not immediately clear. A total of 15 people have been charged in connection with the July 21 plot against three subway trains and on a double-decker bus. The attempted attacks did not kill anyone as the bombs failed to detonate, but they shook Britain's capital two weeks after near identical suicide bombings killed 52 commuters. The man was from the Tottenham area of north London. He was the 43rd person to be detained in connection with the July 21 plot. Most have been released without charge.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/technology/ebusiness/feeds/ap/2005/12/20/ap2406178.html>

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To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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